Montana Drought Summary

June 17, 2002

Montana precipitation summary, June 1-14.

East of the Continental Divide, precipitation for the period was near to much above normal. The majority of precipitation fell between the 7th and 11th. Most of the region received over an inch of rain from this storm. (For a statewide contour map of precipitation during this period go to: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?IMAGE+hydro/daily/jun11_plot.gif) The north central plains were the hardest hit, getting 2 to 6 inches of precipitation. The higher amounts found along the east slopes of the Rockies, where storm total precipitation approached record amounts. The eastern and southern parts of the state were not hit as hard and only received showers on the 10th and 11th.

West of the Continental Divide, precipitation for the period was above normal in the south and below normal in the north. Precipitation distribution was heavily dependent on the storm between the 7th and the 10th (see map referenced above). Extreme northwest Montana received less than a quarter inch on these days while the area from Flathead Lake south received one to three inches of liquid.

Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches)
for the Past Month and Water Year to Date

Location	May 15 - June 14	% of Normal	October 1 - June 14	% of Normal	Rank as Driest	Years on Record
Billings	1.68	72.1	6.52	62.8	4th	54
Bozeman	3.32	125.8	9.93	101.4	33rd	50
Cut Bank	5.98	228.2	7.62	111.7	72nd	83
Glasgow	3.25	154.0	5.79	95.7	38th	98
Great Falls	5.80	219.7	8.68	91.7	47th	109
Havre	4.54	222.5	6.61	97.8	77th	119
Helena	5.04	259.8	7.92	118.0	64th	109
Kalispell	2.88	122.0	8.61	70.7	13th	101
Lewistown	2.63	81.9	5.71	51.9	**1st**	76
Miles City	2.01	81.7	5.29	63.8	8th	65
Missoula	3.48	170.6	10.49	108.8	39th	50

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS

For a state map of % of normal water year precip (updated around the 7th of each month), go to
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on streamflows from the USGS, go to
http://mt.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/sw

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to
http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

Montana precipitation forecast.

As of June 16th, CPC forecasts near normal precipitation across Montana for the period June 24th through the 30th. The outlook for July through September, issued by CPC on June 14th, predicts a better chance of below normal precipitation for the state. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long range forecasts can be found at
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html

El Niño may be developing in the equatorial waters off of South America. A moderate to strong El Niño usually causes a drier than normal period in Montana, especially during the winter. Currently,only a weak El Niño is expected this winter. For the latest details on El Niño, go to
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory

The Montana Drought Summary is produced by the National Weather Service Office in Great Falls, Montana, and is updated twice a month. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?HTML+drought.